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LEGISLATIVE BULLETIN

League of Women Voters of Maine

March 3, 1961

Number 4

CALL TO ACTION ON PISCATAQUA

Almost 20 bills have been filed which relate to our water item. Several of these are local in nature and of no great significance statewide. Letters on these bills will be sent by the state water chairman to the appropriate committees. There are two bills, however, that are of extreme interest and import to the state as a whole. These are the acts classifying the Kennebec River Basin and the Salmon Falls-Piscataqua River Watershed.

L.D. 1414, the Salmon Falls-Piscataqua River, is a joint effort with New Hampshire to classify the entire river. New Hampshire has held hearings but no reports have been made. Two areas of the river in Maine not previously classified, are to be set at B-1. The water supply of the Town of Berwick is concerned here. The other section deals with the Great Bay area. This spot has great potential as a recreation (especially boating) area and great shellfish grounds. Both Kittery and Portsmouth would benefit from the proposed classification. This hearing is now set for Thursday, March 9, 9:30 A.M., Room 120-c.

L.D. 1417, the Kennebec River Basin proposal pertains to the stretch of river from Anson & Madison to Popham Beach & Georgetown. This is divided into seven segments, varying from B-1 at Phippsburg, to D from Fairfield & Benton to Swan Island. This Act will cause a great deal of lobbying on both sides. While it leaves a good deal to be desired in certain areas, it is a major step in the program of the Water Improvement Commission. The greatest amount of support is necessary to help its passage.

The State League will present statements at both of these hearings and we especially request that the League be well represented. They will probably be held on separate days and it may mean two trips. Right now we only know the date of the Piscataqua hearing. I realize that many demands are made on your time in this legislative year, but since we have done so much work on this item and are now at the point where the chips are down, we must not dissipate all of our previous hard work by letting up now. We will give you as much advance notice as possible but as of now, we find out on Tuesday which hearings will be held on the following week.

Local Leagues and individual members in the Piscataqua area are requested to send letters NOW to the Natural Resources Committee, Senator Norman K. Ferguson, Chairman, in support of the proposed classification. It would be wise to have Local Leagues draft statements for the March 9th hearing. Clear statement with Mrs. Childs before reading.

Jean H. Childs, Water Chairman

The League of Women Voters was well represented at the Appropriation Hearing for the Probation and Parole Department and the Boys Training Center held on February 22nd and the State Board wishes to thank all those members who responded to this Call To Action. However, our job is far from finished for now is the time to write to the members of the Appropriation Committee (names are listed in the Senate and House Registers) and to your own legislators urging them to appropriate the additional funds necessary to (1st) provide residential care and program to meet the increased pressures of the institution resulting from the temporary unit recommended in the Governor's Construction Budget; (2nd) to appropriate funds to provide for an effective after-care program for children released from the Boys Training Center; (3rd) to appropriate funds so as to bring deteriorated services (due to high commitment and admittance rates) to the level of those considered current in 1957-1958.

The need is great and we urge you to let your legislators hear from you!

It is not yet known when the hearing will be on L.D. No. 763 - An act Appropriating Funds for Relocation and Construction of a Boys Training Center. We will try to give you some advance notice so that you may be prepared to attend the hearing. A report from the site committee has just been printed and you will be receiving this shortly.

TAXES - A full report on consensus on this item will be forthcoming in the next Maine Voter.

REPORTS OF LEGISLATIVE INTERVIEW - We have received reports from five Leagues who have interviewed their Legislators. It is important that these men be seen - not only so that you may become acquainted with them but that you may learn from them their views on the various matters in which we are interested. As we have said before these Legislators have other interests and cannot be fully cognizant of all the issues brought before them. This is a good opportunity for educating.

Notice to Legislative Chairman: After a Call to Action would you please report to Mrs. Ann Ward, 28 Franklin St., Lewiston, Maine how many members from your League attended the hearing.

DON'T FORGET LEAGUE DAY AT THE STATE HOUSE - MARCH 14th. See attached flyer.